H3568 – 0001

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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL.

I, DAVID PATRICK MAXWELL FYFE..................., hereby certify that the document annexed hereto and numbered ..TC.71... is an official British Governmental document,

~~a report of the United Nations~~,

D.P.M.F

~~an act or document of a committee set up for the investigation of war crimes,~~

~~a record or finding of a Tribunal of the United Nations~~,

within the meaning of Article 21 of the Charter of the International Military Tribunal, and

a document made by a person in the employment of the British Government in the ordinary course of his duties, and that such person was in a position and under a duty to make all reasonable investigations relating to the subject matter thereof.

(signed) D P Maxwell Fyfe

(date) 2nd December 1945.

(strike out and initial all words not applicable).

H3568 – 0003

Further Correspondence Respecting Poland.

III Danzig and the Corridor

TC 71

(15923)

037306

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

[C 9225/54/18] No. 1.

Consul-General Shepherd to Viscount Halifax.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Danzig, July* 1, 1939.

MY telegram No. 71.

Yesterday morning four German army officers in mufti arrived here by night express from Berlin to organise Danzig Heimwehr.

2. All approaches to hills and dismantled fort, which constitute a popular public promenade on western fringe of the city, have been closed with barbed wire and "verboten" notices.

3. The walls surrounding the shipyards bear placards: "Comrades keep your mouths shut lest you regret consequence."

4. Master of British steamer *High Commissioner Wood*, whilst he was roving Königsberg from 28th June to 30th June, observed considerable military activity, including extensive shipment of camouflaged covered lorries and similar material by small coasting vessels. On 28th June four medium-sized steamers loaded with troops, lorries, field kitchens, &c., left Königsberg, ostensibly returning to Hamburg after manœuvres, but actually proceeding to Stettin. Names of steamers were *Hohenhorn*, with heavy derricks, each capable of lifting about 50 tons, *Scharhorn*, *Tilsit* and *Ütlandhorn*, all modern, well-equipped vessels, each about 5,000 tons gross. Please inform Admiralty.

[C 9561/54/18] No. 8.

Consul-General Shepherd to Viscount Halifax.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 17. Saving.)
(Telegraphic.) *Danzig, July* 6, 1939.

WARSAW telegram No. 206.

I learn from a reliable source that for several nights past light (believed to be anti-tank) guns have been smuggled into Danzig from Königsberg in German shallow draught naval lighters via Frisches Haff, Vistula–Haff Canal, Vistula, Dead Vistula and Holm Island, whence they were transferred to Schichau shipyard for distribution by road, and that in the early hours of 2nd July light tanks were smuggled in by the same route, but landed on south bank of Dead Vistula opposite Bohnsack, whence they were removed on lorries. On the night of 30th June a considerable number of closely covered grey lorries passed this consulate-general singly, but at short intervals apart, coming from direction of Schichau shipyard (paragraph 2 of my telegram No. 71) and proceeding in that of barracks referred to in paragraph 4 of my telegram No. 71 and of hills referred to in paragraph 2 of my telegram No. 72.

2. On afternoon of 1st July local newspapers announced that band and some officers of second West Prussian Field Artillery Regiment, No. 36, would arrive that evening from Leting for ceremonies the following day in honour of regiment associated with Danzig. On 2nd July the visitors paraded through the streets wearing swords. I asked one of the counsellors at Polish Commissariat-General whether permission had been obtained for this procedure, and, if not, whether it was not irregular (your telegram No. 205 to Warsaw, paragraph 3, sentence 2), but he professed to be uncertain on both points. So far as I am aware, the Poles have refrained from protesting to the Senate about the recent militaristic activities here. This attitude has given rise to impression in some (notably French) circles here that in the last resort the Poles will acquiesce in return of the Free City to Germany.

3. Danzig students are being required to spend their summer holidays patrolling frontier, learning and teaching motor cycling, &c.

4. Arrival of horses, referred to in paragraph 1 of telegram No. 71, at barracks was resumed on 5th July and hay is delivered there daily.

5. A German who yesterday enquired whether, in view of all recent activities here, it would be wise for him to send his wife and baby to his parents in Memel was told by counsellor in the foreign section of the Senate that, although last days of June and first days of July had been very critical for Danzig, it was believed, barring accidents, the remainder of July should be reasonably calm. This seems to confirm the opinion expressed in last paragraph of my telegram No. 71 that both Danzig and Polish activities are at present defensive, but Danzigers feared that the Poles might launch a surprise attack during recent smuggling of considerable quantities of munitions into the free city.

6. So far as can at present be foreseen, it seems that no serious developments need be anticipated before August.

7. I learn from a reliable source that concrete gun mountings are being constructed along the coast between Kefahrwasser and Neufahr, and that three guns, about 4·7-in. calibre with long recoils, have already been mounted at Quellenberg. Tracks made in bringing guns from Durchbruch are clearly visible.

[C 9745/54/18] No. 11.

Consul-General Shepherd to Viscount Halifax.—(Received July 12.)

[By Bag.]

(No. 20. Saving.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Danzig, July* 10, 1939.

MY telegram No. 17, Saving, paragraph 7.

The same informant, whom I believe to be reliable, advises me that on 8th July he personally saw about thirty military lorries with East Prussian licence numbers on the Bischofsberg, where numerous field kitchens had been placed along the hedges. There were also eight large anti-aircraft guns in position, which he estimated as being of over 3-inch calibre, and three six-barrelled light anti-aircraft machine guns. There were about 500 men drilling with rifles, and the whole place is extensively fortified with barbed wire, &c.

After seeing the above-mentioned anti-aircraft guns at close range, my informant is of the opinion that the three guns which he saw from a great distance at Quellberg were also anti-aircraft. The other guns along the coast he believes to be naval guns.

A member of this consulate-general personally saw heavy machine guns with ammunition being openly unloaded in the middle of the day at the police station situated in a street running at the back of this consulate-general. On 10th July he also saw forty-three bell tents at the foot of the Quellberg and seventeen tents between Ostliche Neufähr and Bohnsack, and a lorry with S.A. men and one quick-firing anti-aircraft gun (single barrel) on the ferry crossing from Danzig to Bohnsack.

[C 10491/54/18] No. 31.

Consul-General Shepherd to Viscount Halifax.—(Received July 25.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) *Danzig, July* 25, 1939.

HERR FÖRSTER informed High Commissioner yesterday that Danzig question could, if necessary, wait a year or more, and said that military precautions now being taken would be liquidated in the middle of September.

2. Meanwhile, there is increasing amount of horse and motor transport visible, and frequent reports reach me of men being called up and of arrival of men and material from East Prussia. While I cannot at present confirm these [group omitted], it would be unwise to ignore them. There are numerous warehouses and other buildings in Danzig where material could be stored and men housed.

3. I learn that a certain Major-General Eberhard is now in command here.

(Repeated to Berlin, No. 35, and Warsaw, No. 52.)

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Registry
No.

Draft.

Telegram.

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Filed Dec 6, 1945

Despatched M.

037307

2. M. Beck restated Polish Government's policy generally as given in my telegram No. 69, Saving.

3. He went on to say that Polish Government did not consider measures of remilitarisation of Danzig were as yet sufficiently serious to necessitate any counter action.

4. If their economic rights at Danzig, *i.e.*, the port, the Vistula, and the railways, were interfered with it would be more serious. French Ambassador feels this tendency to stress economic rather than strategic value of Danzig to Poland is important and interesting.

5. Coming after meeting of Minister on 5th July, it may signify that Polish

Herr Hitler, however, realises that it would than useless, to begin negotiations with Poles in their present mood. What the basis of negotiation would be as result of Polish refusal of his first offer is uncertain, and Herr Hitler himelf has possibly not even made up his mind upon that point. The only danger to world peace at the moment, in the opinion of Herr Hitler and German Government, is lack of control of individual Poles, not of Polish Government itself, which obviously does not desire war. But Colonel Beck at the moment is the prisoner of his [group undecypherable]s, namely, the people, the minor and provincial officials and a section of the military.

3. The above appreciation is in conformity with views of the best informed of my colleagues, as well as with my own impressions as derived from those contacts which are in closest touch with Herr Hitler himself, members of the Council, Field-Marshal Göring and Lammers, Funk and Lutze, &c.

It is the confident view of my Italian colleague, who, though sometimes clearly anxious lest Herr Hitler takes sudden action without first consulting Signor Mussolini, should be in a position to know best.

4. It goes without saying that when one is dealing with a single individual whose reactions are unpredictable and depend on development of events or even on a single incident, it is impossible to guarantee and foolish to foretell anything. Nevertheless, subject to unforeseen events, I regard above as representing fairly accurately Herr Hitler's present frame of mind.

(Repeated to Warsaw.)

(M. Beck being obliged thereby to cancel his own invitation to a luncheon), and a dinner given by myself at which, besides officers and officials of the Polish army, navy, air force, and Foreign Ministry, the marshal and M. Beck were present. It would appear that the last occasion on which the marshal accepted an invitation to dinner from a foreign embassy was three years ago when General Gamelin was in Warsaw.

19. I have given a copy of this despatch to Sir Edmund Ironside, who has been good enough to say that he is in full agreement with it.

I have, &c.
C. J. NORTON.

[C 10357/54/18] No. 29.

Consul-General Shepherd to Viscount Halifax.—(Received July 25.)

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TC. 71

G. B. EXHIBIT

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Filed Dec. 5, 1945
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